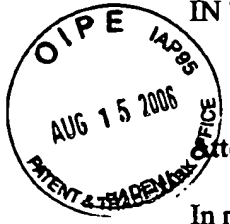


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit 2837  
Kimberly Lockett, Primary Examiner

Attorney Docket No.: 2647-004  
In re Patent Application of: Jeffrey T. Babicz  
Serial No.: 10/816,479  
Filing Date: April 1, 2004  
For: String Instrument

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION**

Dear Examiner Lockett:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 30, 2006.

- (1) Applicant notes that claims 8 and 17 have been allowed. The other claims remain unchanged.
- (2) The rejection of claims 1,2,9 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on Bunker in view of Taylor and Fender is respectfully traversed. The claims are believed to be patentably distinguishable by calling for "continually adjustable means to move said neck vertically without changing the angle of said neck relative to said body, said continually adjustable means including a vertical movement means for causing relative vertical movement only between said neck and said body without loosening said neck from said body."
- Bunker discloses a stringed instrument that provides for lateral displacement of the distal end of the instrument's neck relative to its body. Moreover, Bunker's design will only work in an electric guitar with a solid body to support the tight fitting neck, whereas